

TAKE ACTION: Please cut and paste this letter onto your personal or Institutional letterhead calling for the release from prison of writer Yang Tongyan.

11 May 2007

His Excellency Hu Jintao
President of the People's Republic of China
State Council
Beijing 100032
P.R. China

Excellency,

I wish to add my name to this appeal from PEN Canada, the Canadian centre of the international writers' organization, International PEN. PEN Canada is writing to protest the twelve-year prison sentence handed down to dissident writer **Yang Tongyan** (aka Yang Tianshui), Honorary Member of PEN Canada.

According to PEN's information, dissident writer and member of Independent Chinese PEN Centre Yang Tongyan (pen-name Yang Tianshui) was convicted of subversion and sentenced by the Zhenjiang Intermediate Court in eastern China's Jiangsu province at a three-hour closed trial on 16 May 2006. He was convicted for posting anti-government articles on the Internet, organizing branches of the (outlawed) China Democracy Party and accepting illegal funds from overseas. The Zhenjiang Intermediate People's Court verdict cited several allegedly subversive articles published on overseas Chinese websites between May 2002-December 2005 under the pseudonyms 'Yang Tianshui' and 'China's Tears', namely "October First is China's Day of Calamity", "An Admonition to the Chinese Communist Ruling Clique", "Everyone has the Right to Oppose Tyranny", "Our Hopes for the Great Democracy Party", and "Pondering the Chinese Democracy Movement". Yang Tongyan was detained without a warrant on 23 December 2005 in Nanjing, and formally arrested on 20 January 2006. His family was not notified of his arrest or whereabouts until 27 January 2006.

Yang Tongyan, born 21 February 1962, is known for his critical writings published on dissident news websites such as Boxun.com and Epoch Times. He spent a decade in prison from 1990 to 2000 on counter-revolution charges for his involvement in the 1989 pro-democracy protests. His previous conviction is said to have contributed to the severity of his sentence. He was also previously held incommunicado from 24 December 2004 - 25 January 2005.

PEN Canada calls for the immediate and unconditional release of Yang Tongyan in accordance with Article 19 of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which China has yet to ratify. We remain deeply concerned about the precarious Human rights situation in China and are seeking assurances prisoners are being treated humanely in detention, and given access to their families, lawyers, and any necessary care.

Sincerely,

[Your name and address]

Wen Jiabao Guojia Zongli
Prime Minister of the People's Republic of China
The State Council
9 Xihuangcheng Genbeijie

Beijingshi 100032
People's Republic of China
Fax: +011 86 10 6596 1109

Ms. Wu Aiyong
Minister of Justice of the People's Republic of China
10 Chaoyangmen Nandajie
Chaoyang District
Beijing 100020
People's Republic of China
Fax: +011 86 10 6467 7351 / 6839 3014 / 6529 2345
E-mail: minister@legalinfo.gov.cn

Procurator General Mr. Jia Chunwang
Supreme People's Procuratorate
Beiheyuan Street 147
100726 Beijing
People's Republic of China

Also c/o:
Embassy of the People's Republic of China
515 St. Patrick Street
Ottawa ON K1N 5H3
Fax: +1 613 789 1911 / 789 1414

Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations
New York City, New York
Fax: +1 212 634 7626
E-mail: chinamission_un@mfa.gov.cn

Please send copies of your appeal to the following Canadian authorities:

The Hon. Peter MacKay
Minister of Foreign Affairs
Lester B. Pearson Building, Room A-10
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa ON K1A 0G2
Fax: (613) 996 3443
E-mail: peter.mackay@international.gc.ca

Canadian Embassy
19 Dongzhimenwai Dajie
Chao Yang District
Beijing 100600 PRC
Fax: +011 86 10 6532 1684
E-mail: beijing-immigration@international.gc.ca, Beijing-pa@international.gc.ca

Alison LeClaire Christie
Director, East Asia Division I
Foreign Affairs Canada
E-mail: alison.leclairechristie@international.gc.ca

Nadia Burger
Deputy Director, East Asia Division I
Foreign Affairs Canada
E-mail: nadia.burger@international.gc.ca

Christina Komorski
Political Officer, East Asia Division I

Foreign Affairs Canada
E-mail: christina.komorski@international.gc.ca

Toby Schwartz
Desk Officer, China
Foreign Affairs Canada
E-mail: toby.schwartz@international.gc.ca

Gwyn Kutz
Director, Human Rights Division
Foreign Affairs Canada
E-mail: gwyn.kutz@international.gc.ca